

New Year... 2015

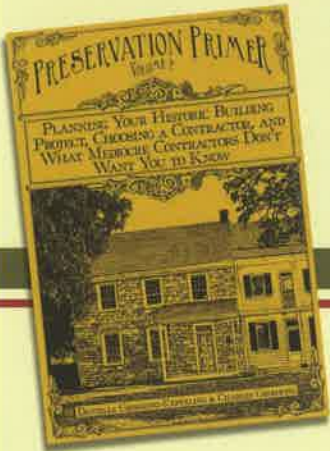
NEW PRESERVATION PRIMER!

The second in the series of primers we developed to help guide homeowners in their restoration projects...

**PRESERVATION PRIMER #2
WILL BE AVAILABLE IN FEBRUARY!**

IN THIS ONE YOU'LL LEARN:
Which questions to ask
What you need to plan for
How to evaluate a contractor
The regulations and standards you need to reference
What to do when things go bad

PRE-ORDER YOUR COPY NOW
BY CONTACTING MOIRA AT
717.925.3185 OR
MKARAHALIS@HISTORIC-RESTORATIONS.COM



What's Inside ...

DECK YOUR DOOR
HISTORY OF WREATHS
AND HOW TO MAKE ONE



**COLONIAL
CHRISTMAS**
HOW COLONISTS
MADE MERRY

**STROKE
SIGNS**
**HOW TO
SPOT THEM**

**A FEW OF
MISS P'S...**

**FAVORITE
THINGS**

**THE GALS IN
THE OFFICE**
GET THEIR
COOKIE SWAP ON



Historic Restorations

A traditional approach to whole house restoration

341 East Liberty Street, Building #2, Lancaster, PA 17602

717.925.3185 • www.historic-restorations.com



Historic Restorations



Historic Restorations

Warm Winter Greetings...

MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS!

This is one of my favorite times of year (I say that every season, don't I?)... and for this newsletter we decided to go with a "Colonial Christmas" theme. In researching Colonial Christmas resources, I landed in Colonial Williamsburg's website and now I have a longing to go back. We spent a Thanksgiving in Williamsburg years ago, but never a Christmas. After looking at all the pretty pictures, that trip just might have to go pretty high on the Christmas trip list.

Trips are one of my favorite things to do at Christmas (they cut down on the amount of shopping I need to do since the trip is our gift, and the quiet week in the office is the perfect time to get away)... and making Christmas cookies are another of my favorites! So Lois, Moira, Karri, and I got together for a cookie swap. We've got recipes and photos inside - including me in my "famous" Christmas apron). Here's a little "behind the curtain" info - our newsletter is produced a month ahead so we actually had our cookie swap in the beginning of November!

Speaking of favorites... this is Penelope's first Christmas. (Hopefully we don't forget she needs a stocking still!) She is discovering how fun the holidays can be. We introduced her to the song "My Favorite Things" and she tries to bark along as she finds preservation things she can't live without. So this month she is helping us introduce the website we're launching where we've compiled all our favorite preservation things we can't live without! (These would make some great gifts for those preservation-minded people in your life!)

We don't buy the people in our lives gifts just to spend money. We buy them gifts because those people are important to us. Recently we had a very real reminder of how important our very own Lois is to all of us when she had a stroke in the end of October. She is home and going to physical therapy three times a week and working very hard to get back to where she was. Fortunately Chuck acted FAST when she had the stroke, or things could be much worse. So we're including a PSA on stroke signs and symptoms.

And we're reminding you that this is a great time of year for reflection and celebrating all of the people in our lives that we are lucky to know and learn from. I hope that you count us in those numbers, because we value you and are lucky to know and learn from you. And it is always our goal to provide you with valuable information about preservation and its importance in our lives.

Danielle

STROKES ARE NO JOKE

F.A.S.T. Saves Lives

Know the signs so you can spot a stroke early and act FAST!

Remember the key elements:

FAST

Face:

Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?



Arm:

Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift down?



Speech:

Ask the person to repeat a phrase. Is speech slurred or strange?



Time:

If you see any of these signs call 9-1-1 right away.



Events

DON'T MISS US AT THE HISTORIC HOME SHOW!

February 6-8, 2015

IT'S ONLY ABOUT TWO MONTHS AWAY AND OUR EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING!

We'll be debuting our Preservation Primer #2 at the show, so make sure you come and join us!

THIS EVENT IS FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO LEARN ABOUT HOW TO RESTORE, RENOVATE, DECORATE, OR CARE FOR OLD HOUSES. AND WE'LL BE THERE TO ANSWER ALL OF YOUR OLD HOUSE QUESTIONS.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT: HISTORICHOMESHOWS.COM

YULETIDE AT ROCKFORD
December 26 - 29

Step back in time and experience an 18th Century Christmas at the Rockford Plantation in Lancaster. Call 717.392.7223 or visit: bit.ly/1wY3Yue

LANTERN TOURS AT EPHRATA CLOISTER
Fridays & Saturdays
Dec. 26 & 27, Jan. 2 & 3

Take a guided lantern tour led by local teen Student Historians and see what the Cloister was like at Christmas in the 1700's. Call 717.733.6600 or visit: bit.ly/1GTgZJR

WINTER DAY CAMP AT LANDIS VALLEY MUSEUM
December 30

Children make ornaments, cook over an open hearth, and make tin-punchings. Call 717.569.0401 or visit: bit.ly/1v97mD7

Christmas in the Colonies

WHO CELEBRATED & WHO DIDN'T?

Architectural influences weren't the only thing the colonists brought from the Old World to the New World...

Christmas customs, traditions, and festivities came with them too.

And just like the architecture, Christmas looked different in the colonies depending on where you were.

Virginian Christmas celebrations were merry times with feasting, dancing, games, and plenty of leisure time to visit with friends and family - mimicking the Christmas traditions of those on the English Manors most Virginian colonists were from.

"Christmas amongst the Salvages: where wee were never more merrie, nor fedde on more plentie of good oysters, fish, flesh, wild fowle, and good bbread, nor better fires in England then in the drie warme smokie houses of Kecoughtan."
-Captain John Smith, 1609

But Christmas wasn't quite so merry everywhere in the colonies. In fact, during the 1600's in New England the Puritans criminalized Christmas. So strong was the Puritan distaste of what they saw as the "idolatry" of the holiday, that even after Christmas became legal in New England in 1681, it's merriment wouldn't become widely accepted for nearly 200 more years.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS & THE GIFTS?

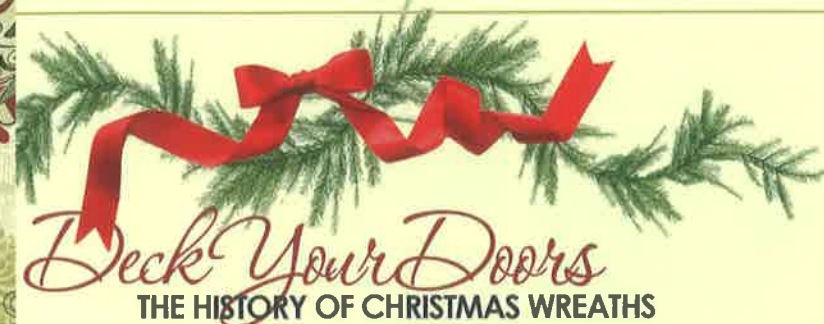
Contrary to today's approach, Christmas in the colonies wasn't all about the kids... in fact, it wasn't about the kids at all. Early Colonial Christmases all featured elegant, adult festivities, none of which were meant for children.

Children would continue to be excluded from the festivities until the strong Dutch and German influences of home and family made their mark on our blossoming country in the 1800's.

Children weren't completely left out when it came to Christmas in the Colonies - they, along with other dependents like slaves and apprentices - all received gifts for Christmas, but never gave them in return. (Karri has started petitioning to reinstate that tradition - apparently taking four kids Christmas shopping every year is stressful!)

DID YOU KNOW...

Christmas was a 12-Day event during Colonial Times. It started on December 25th and ended on the "Twelfth Night" on January 6th.



Deck Your Doors

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS WREATHS

An iconic symbol of Christmas, the wreath actually pre-dates the holiday by about 800 years. Originally used as head ornamentation for Ancient Greeks, Romans, and southern Europeans, nobody is really sure when the wreath made the jump from decorating heads to decorating walls and doors.

Some historians speculate it was purely by accident, that Olympian spectators hung their head wreaths on their walls as souvenirs and stumbled upon a new decorating style for special occasions they liked.

However it happened, wreaths eventually landed on our doors, but their evolution didn't stop there. If it had, we'd just be hanging wreaths of laurel on our doors. Instead our Christmas wreaths were influenced over time by another culture's winter celebration - the Celtic Winter Solstice.

Ancient Celts gathered any still living plants they could find to adorn their homes for Winter Solstice as a reminder that though everything is brown and dead now, better times are coming when spring returns and the earth wakes.

And "still living" plants in the middle of winter meant... All the traditional greenery we associate with Christmas. Evergreens. Holly. Mistletoe. Boxwoods. (And, of course, the laurel too.)

Early colonists started with this base of greenery and turned to their natural surroundings for color. Contrary to popular belief, fruit was probably not seen on wreaths in Colonial times. Fruit would have been too valuable to waste so frivolously. If any fruit was seen on wreaths, it would have been the locally available berries and apples and not the citrus fruits most people think of.

DID YOU KNOW...

Wreaths haven't always been used solely as pretty ornaments for doors. Traditionally, in Europe wreaths served the same purpose house numbers do today - distinguishing and identifying homes.



How to Make a Wreath

YOU WILL NEED:

- flat 2-wire wreath frame
- #22 gauge spool wire
- wire cutters
- chenille wire or pipe cleaner
- clippers
- 5-inch sprigs of boxwood or other plant materials
(It takes about 1 1/2 bushels of boxwood to make an 18" wreath)

STEP 1. Wrap the end of the around the outside wire of the wreath frame. Leave the wire attached to the spool.

STEP 2. Hold 3 to 4 sprigs of boxwood close to the frame and wrap these cut ends tightly.

STEP 3. Wrap the wire around the boxwood and the frame several times so that the boxwood is securely fastened to the frame.

STEP 4. Hold more boxwood close to what you just attached and wrap these as in Step 2. Place in the frame, just overlapping the ends. Repeat Step 3 to secure the second bunch to the frame.

Continuing in the same direction, repeat Steps 2 through 4 until you've covered the whole frame. The last bunch should be wired underneath the first bunch you attached by lifting the foliage end and wrapping the last bunch tightly under it.

For more details on making wreaths, including illustrations, alternate styles, and how to condition your foliage, visit this website: bit.ly/14o3gvf



The Holidays aren't the Holidays without a Good Old-Fashioned Cookie Swap!



Waiting for that first batch to come out of the oven was torture!



Moira's first sugar cookies, really?



Even the failures are yummy!

Classic Sugar Cookies

- 2 1/4 C. Flour
- 1/2 C. Sugar
- 1/2 C. Confectioner's Sugar
- 1/8 t. Baking Soda
- 1/8 t. Cream of Tartar
- 1/2 t. Salt
- 1 1/2 T. (1 1/2 sticks, plus 1/2 T.) Unsalted Butter.
- 1 Large Egg
- 1 T. Vanilla Extract

- STEP #1: Place all dry ingredients in a food processor for 5 seconds.
- STEP #2: Distribute butter over dry mixture in pats and process until dough resembles a coarse meal (about 30 seconds). Scrape the bowl with a spatula once during the process to be sure of even distribution.
- STEP #3: Stir the egg and vanilla together in a cup, add to running processor and process until the dough comes together.
- STEP #4: Remove dough and knead it for several seconds, then divide into two slabs and refrigerate for 1 to 2 hours.

ROLL OUT TO 1/8" THICKNESS AND CUT IN DESIRED SHAPES, THEN BAKE AT 375 FOR 15 TO 20 MINUTES (UNTIL FIRM)

Golden Gingerbread Cookies

- 1 1/4 C. Flour
- 1/4 t. Baking Soda
- Pinch of Salt
- 1 t. Ginger
- 1 t. Cinnamon
- 5 T. Butter, in pats
- 1/2 C. Superfine Sugar
- 2 T. Maple Syrup
- 1 Egg Yolk, Beaten

- STEP #1: Sift flour and other dry ingredients and then cut the butter into the flour until the mixture resembled fine bread crumbs. *You can use a food processor.
- STEP #2: Add the sugar, syrup, and egg yolk, then mix or process to a firm dough. Knead lightly. Wrap and chill for at least 30 minutes before shaping.

BAKE AT 350 FOR ABOUT 12 MINUTES, OR UNTIL THEY ARE JUST BEGINNING TO COLOR AROUND THE EDGES.



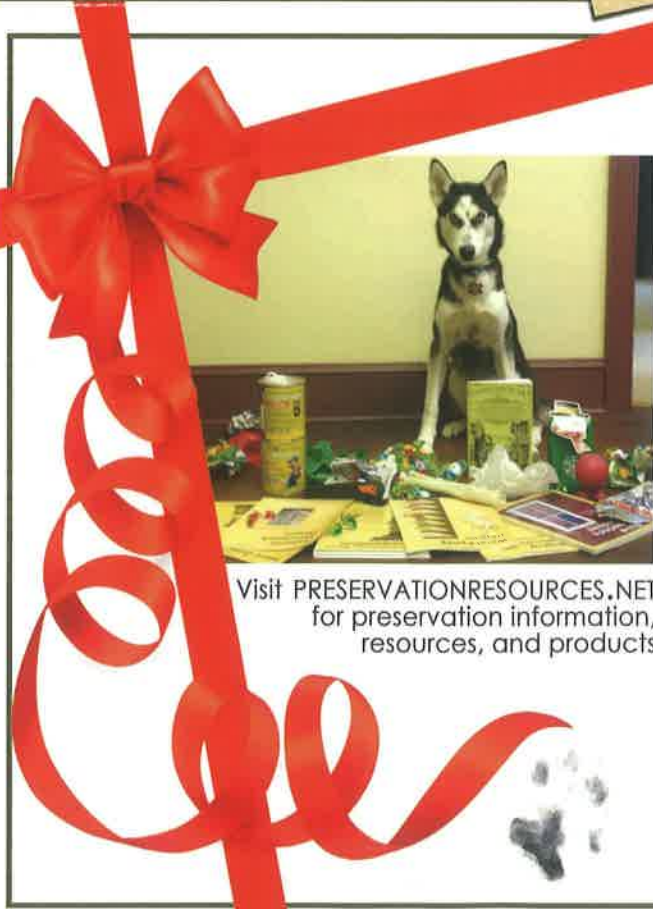
It might be messy, but it was a fun break from the office



Almost too pretty to eat. Almost.



Karri liked using the fondant, the piping not so much



Visit PRESERVATIONRESOURCES.NET for preservation information, resources, and products

Penelope's Preservation Pointer's
THESE ARE A FEW OF MY FAVORITE THINGS

I am so excited about my very first Christmas that I can hardly keep my tail still! But Mommy and Daddy tell me that if I'm very good Santa will bring me lots of presents, so I'm doing my best to behave and I've started making my Santa list. (Please bring me that Kong ball Santa!)

Mommy took me to the pet store and I found lots of things for my list (like some yummy new treats that I'm sure Daddy's going to get me for my stocking, especially since I asked for enough to share with my sisters). But shopping for Mommy and Daddy was trickier (how am I supposed to keep it a secret from them??), so I went online one day when they didn't take me to the office and I found a website FULL of stuff they are going to LOVE.

www.preservationresources.net

I spent HOURS on the website and had a hard time picking just a few of my favorite things to buy, but I figured I better force myself or Mommy might get a little upset with me when she saw the bank charges if I bought everything I wanted to.

So I settled on a preservation book and some restoration reports for Mommy - because she's a pretty serious bookworm and always has her nose in a book. (Now I just have to figure out how to wrap them so she won't guess what they are!)

And for Daddy I got paste and liquid paint strippers from Star 10 (so he doesn't have to spend as much time stripping all those windows and can spend more time playing with me) and some PC Woody (because he is always running out of that stuff!)

I saw lots of cool stuff on the website and I didn't buy it all, so there's more left for you if you need gifts yet for someone you love!



Historic Restorations



HistorRestor



Danielle Keperling